

Frank C. Emmick, a former resident of Rossford, has been a prisoner in Castro's Cuban prison for more than two years and his relatives have not heard from him in over six months. Letters have been forwarded to the Swiss Embassy in an effort to determine what has happened to Emmick. Switzerland maintains some liaison with the Cuban government through the International Red Cross and other international groups. The last letter received from Emmick was written in December, 1965.

Emmick was sentenced to 30 years in prison for alleged espionage against the Cuban government. He was convicted after a one-day trial before a military tribunal in Havana of being a spy in the service of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency. Six Cubans who were supposed to have been hired by Emmick to gather information, were convicted with him and also sentenced to long prison terms.

The Swiss consul at the time of the trial stated that the prosecutor had asked for the death penalty for all seven but finally agreed to

the 30 year sentences. During the trial evidence was presented that film, taken of Cuban areas, had been found in his coat while he was at the American Club in Havana. Emmick was president of the American Club.

A British man, who had been in the same prison with Emmick, was released in January, 1965 after the British Embassy had protested against his four year sentence for alleged violations of the security of Cuba. He reported at that time that Emmick and other American, Richard Poyle of Chicago, were in the prison under deplorable conditions.

Appeals to the Cuban government have not been answered according to members of his family and Congressman Thomas Ludlow Ashley has instituted an investigation into the charges and the possibility of his release. He is supposed to be confined to La Cabana Fortress on the Isle of Pines which is near Havana.

The Cuban government has offered no explanation of the charges that he was employed by the CIA beyond the evidence in the trial which stated that he had film in his

possession and that he had been turning photos and films over to another suspected spy, a broadcasting correspondent for transmission back to the United States.

Emmick lived in Rossford the majority of his life before he went to New York to work for the Toledo Scale Company. He had sold insurance in Rossford and also had worked for the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company.

His former wife, Mrs. Raphael Emmick, his son and daughter, and his brothers and sister, have had no letters from him. They said that he had been permitted to write one letter a month but no mail has been received since early this year and that letter had been written in early December.

A group is being formed in the area to raise funds to endeavor to obtain his release from the Cuban prison and investigate the charges against him. Several prisoners, released from Cuban prisons, have said that the treason trials were a farce, that the accused men had not counsel nor were they permitted to make any long statement in their defense to prove their innocence.